(c) if not, the reasons therefor, and

(d) the steps taken by Government to meet the demand in full?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) Yes, Sir. Koyali Refinery is the main source of supply of Bitumen to Gujarat.

(b) and (c) Bitumen supplies to Gujarat are on ex-MI basis, i.e., the customer arranges the transportation and the oil companies are loading the trucks reporting at the supply point. Accordingly, the oil companies are making supplies as per the number of State Government trucks reporting for upliftment of Bitumen at the refinery.

(d) The oil companies have been advised to augment Bitumen supplies to the State of Gujarat subject to upliftment by the State through their nominated tank trucks.

Coal Bed Methane Exploration

1780. SHRI JIBON ROY: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM and NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the present status and future plans of Coal Bed Methane (CBM) exploration in West Bengal; and

(b) the action plan for petroleum exploration in Bengal basin?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) Two blocks, viz. (i) Raniganj (Northern Part) & (ii) Ranigang (Eastern Part) in the Raniganj Coal field of West Bengal have been identified for Coal Bed Methane (CBM) Exploration and Exploitation and are proposed to be included in the first round of bidding for Coal Bed Methane (CBM) exploration & exploitation.

In addition to above ONGC has also acquired 80 GLK of 2D seismic data and drilled 2 R & D wells in Durgapur Depression.

(b) ONGC has appointed an expert to evaluate Bengal Basin. Expert recommended for additional seismic data acquisition and review and reinterpretation of existing data and also suggested for a 3 year drilling pause. These recommendations are at various stages of implementation.

After evaluation of the above results, further plan of exploration will be formulated.

Besides above, 3 blocks in Bengal offshore (including NEC) and 2 in Bengal onland basin have been identified for offer in the first round of NELP to be announced in the near future.

Demand of Gujarat Government for revision of Royalty on Petroleum Products

1781. SHRI BANGARU LAXMAN:
SHRI ANANTRAY DEVSHANKER DAVE:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government had recently fixed the rates of royalty on crude oil on ad-hoc basis;

(b) whether the Government of Gujarat has submitted any memorandum for fixation of royalty on crude oil/natural gas to Government;

(c) whether it is also a fact that there is a demand for revision of royalty for the years 1993-94 and 1995-96 and for fixation of royalty for 1996-97 and for the current financial year;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the decision taken by Government thereon and communicated to the Government of Gujarat?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) to (d) For the period 1.4.1993 to 31.3.1996, an 'on